

## Response to Family/Public Inquiries about COVID-19's Impact on Mental Health Services

The IDOC has implemented a robust prevention and response plan to help minimize the risk to offenders, staff, and contractors from the COVID-19 virus, including: limiting the movement of offenders and staff both within and between IDOC facilities statewide, reducing the size of group meetings to comply with recommendations from the CDC, and allocating Department resources to the most essential operational functions.

Offenders with mental health needs will continue to be offered mental health services without disruption for as long as possible. Contingency plans have been put in place that may require mental health staff to provide support in other areas to ensure that vital medical care continues should the COVID-19 virus spread within our facilities or result in staff shortages. Unfortunately, no one can predict how long the COVID-19 virus will continue to impact normal IDOC operations and programming. Use letters and video visits to connect with your loved one, give and take support, and remember that there are still reasons to feel hopeful and things to be grateful for even during this difficult time.

Additional information about the COVID-19 virus and the State's response plans can be found at <https://coronavirus.in.gov/>.